

**Subject:** [ASNCAAlert] Digest Number 4171  
**From:** ASNCAAlert@yahoogroups.com  
**Date:** 02/27/2014 06:17 AM  
**To:** ASNCAAlert@yahoogroups.com

Yahoo! Groups

ASNC News Group

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## Messages

### 1 [Mt. Washington Local Issues Committee Meeting and Speaker Series 3/3](#)

Wed Feb 26, 2014 10:13 pm (PST) . Posted by: [asncalert](#)

Padraic Cassidy [https://mountwashington.nextdoor.com/profile/1433952/?cs=new&s=de&lc=245188&us=POST\\_NN&ectdata=3nq76lBvwSy%2Bs/m4mrUSRMYYBgCr7m4c8jvObRuReD3U96qqFa80PqSilfWS%2BMWYbBMmPCF%2BYMHUVU5Ok8BhILERZSiSBVXJlhZnCFvcL0MwvopRLBySsLJUjPPyW1K%2B6bp6qAdlvJCgHmOrMH4FkCv3KsikFG3cDMcTwyMGRsc%3D](https://mountwashington.nextdoor.com/profile/1433952/?cs=new&s=de&lc=245188&us=POST_NN&ectdata=3nq76lBvwSy%2Bs/m4mrUSRMYYBgCr7m4c8jvObRuReD3U96qqFa80PqSilfWS%2BMWYbBMmPCF%2BYMHUVU5Ok8BhILERZSiSBVXJlhZnCFvcL0MwvopRLBySsLJUjPPyW1K%2B6bp6qAdlvJCgHmOrMH4FkCv3KsikFG3cDMcTwyMGRsc%3D) from Mount Washington East on 26 Feb  
Mt. Washington Local Issues Committee Meeting and Speaker Series  
Hi Everyone,  
We are excited about our new venue and time- the first Mondays of the month, at Carlin G for our Mt. Washington Local Issues Committee Meeting.

This Monday evening, March 3rd at 7:15 (following our issues meeting at 6:30) we will be joined by guest speaker Lynnette Kampe, the Director Emeritus of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants (southern California's wonderful native flora preserve) speaking on

Brush Clearance and the native flora of the Hill. In recent years Lynnette has consulted with the fire department to assist in developing strategies for safe maintenance that also sustains our native environment.

her bio:

Lynnette Kampe was a member of the Board of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants for five years before serving as Executive Director from 2010 through 2013. She is a certified arborist with over 15 years experience in the fields of urban forestry and native habitat restoration, and has a lifelong love of nature. She was a co-founder and worked for 14 years as General Manager of North East Trees: a non-profit organization best known for building parks and planting native greenbelts along the LA River and Arroyo Seco. After leaving North East Trees she managed local projects for Tree Musketeers: a youth-led environmental organization in El Segundo for 5 years. She has been a member of the Los Angeles Community Forest Advisory Committee since 1999, while also regularly serving as the Beautification Chair of the Mt. Washington Association. Hobbies include SCUBA diving, time with family and gardening.

Please post any items you'd like discussed at Monday's Mt. Washington Local Issues Committee at 6:30 by noon Friday for inclusion in the Agenda (we have a 72 hour cutoff). Even if you don't have an item, please feel free to attend and participate!

Thanks

Padraic Cassidy, Chair Local Issues Committee/ Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council  
mtwashingtonrep@asnc.us mailto:mtwashingtonrep@asnc.us

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## 2 **The Living Museum: Sycamore Grove 3/8**

Wed Feb 26, 2014 10:13 pm (PST) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

Inaugural Walking Tour Extravaganza for the  
The Living Museum: Sycamore Grove

<http://livingmuseumla.blogspot.com/> <http://cts.vresp.com/c/?HighlandParkHeritage/deae732c29/9880cfb452/93c07c2bd1>

The Highland Park Heritage Trust and Friends of the Southwest Museum are co-leading the initiative. This event is co-sponsored by Councilmember Gil Cedillo (CD 1) and many other community groups are lending significant support.

Saturday, March 8th - 10am to 4pm  
Sycamore Grove Park, 4702 N. Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90042  
- Take Metro to the Southwest Museum Goldline Stop -

Encounter the fascinating history of LA's people, architecture, ecology, transportation and five incredible museums all within a short walk from Metro.

Inaugural Walking Tour Extravaganza: Four unique guided walking tours by local authors & historians (suggested donation \$5) plus self guided tours

FREE events featuring: Music | Art | Architecture | History | Ecology | Kid friendly activities | Birthday Cake - the Southwest Museum is 100 Years old !

Website:

<http://livingmuseumla.blogspot.com/> <http://cts.vresp.com/c/?HighlandParkHeritage/deae732c29/9880cfb452/3950f78c9d>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Living-Museum-Sycamore-Grove/1391773757756844>  
<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?HighlandParkHeritage/deae732c29/9880cfb452/5a9c578803>

DeLab - a non-profit who is partnering with us for an event within the event to help build larger awareness of the Southwest Museum.

<http://www.designeastoflabrea.org/event/celebrating-the-southwest-museum-and-exploring-sycamore-grove>

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### 3 The LA River Will be Open For Summertime Fun Permanently

Wed Feb 26, 2014 10:14 pm (PST) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

Tuesday, February 25, 2014, by Bianca Barragan

[http://la.curbed.com/archives/2014/02/the\\_la\\_river\\_will\\_be\\_open\\_for\\_summertime\\_fun\\_permanently.php](http://la.curbed.com/archives/2014/02/the_la_river_will_be_open_for_summertime_fun_permanently.php) [http://la.curbed.com/archives/2014/02/the\\_la\\_river\\_will\\_be\\_open\\_for\\_summertime\\_fun\\_permanently.php](http://la.curbed.com/archives/2014/02/the_la_river_will_be_open_for_summertime_fun_permanently.php)

If you missed the LA River when it opened to the public for the first time since the 1930s last summer, you've got another chance because open access is coming back—for good! Today the City Council passed a motion that would create a permanent recreation zone along the river, from Fletcher Avenue/Rattlesnake Park to Confluence Park, according to the Friends of the LA River's Facebook page.

Last summer's opening was just a pilot program, but it was a great success, and so the city's ready to make it permanent. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, which also managed the pilot, will oversee the area; it'll be open from Memorial Day (May 26, 2014) to Labor Day (September 1, 2014), from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. Now all that remains is to find funding for the program, but we're already taking our kayaks out of the rafters.

- Friends of the LA River [Facebook]
- 12 Photos From the LA River's First Day Open Since the 1930s [Curbed LA]

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#### 4 **Art Openings & Concerts & Workshops- Oh MY! + Save the Date & Than**

Wed Feb 26, 2014 10:14 pm (PST) · Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

Newsletter

February 26, 2014

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=73b76dcdce3164e2301b999cf&id=2b27975105&e=2383ecbde2>

Amazon Solitaire

Curated by: Akina Cox

March 6 – March 27, 2014

Exhibition Opening: March 6, 7 – 9 pm

Exhibition on View M – F, 11 am -5 pm

Participating Members:

JEN BRUCE- KRISTA BUECKING - AMARIS COX - ROBIN COX - GILDA DAVIDIAN - GRACIE DEVITO - JINA DISHMAN - ALEXIS DISSELKOEN - STEFANI GREENWOOD - METTE HERSOUG - ANDREA HIDALGO - MARY HILL - AMY HOWDEN-CHAPMAN - GUI YOUNG HWANG -LAURA MARCHETTI - SIMONE MONTEMURNO - SARAH PETERSEN - LAURALEE POPE - KARI REARDON - EMILY SHANAHAN - LILI TODD -ARIANE VIELMETTER - ESTHER PEARL WATSON- SARAH WILLIAMS - MIGGIE CAKE WONG - And more...

About the Exhibition

Akina Cox's video piece, "Amazon Solitaire," is inspired by her research of the Amazon society. In her original work, a group of women help a powerless teenager save herself. To create this video, almost two dozen women came together to help sew the costumes, edit the script, and act in the video. This experience led Cox to realize that she is part of a contemporary group of Amazons. They maybe have only traveled as far as Eagle Rock, Highland Park, and Altadena, but this sisterhood is a community of curators, writers, artists, teachers, seamstresses, designers, and fabricators.

This exhibition is made possible through the generous support of Pasadena Arts Alliance and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

CFAER & Machine Project present:

Experimental Casting Workshop

March 1 & 2, 12 – 4 pm

Instructor: Mary Hill is an artist and professional mold-maker. For the past three years, she has been casting large-scale silicone and resin sculptures for Paul McCarthy.

\$105 for Machine Project Members// \$120 for non-members

Students will learn the basics of several casting materials and methods.

CFAER & Tenoch present Noches de Trova

Friday, 3/7/14

8:00 PM - \$10 door

Noches de Trova is a monthly music series featuring Esteban Leon, Jorge Negrete and Tomas Cadena performing individual songs from a variety of Mexican and Latin American singer-song-writers from the popular music genre known as “Trova”.

Potions

Wednesdays 4 – 5:30pm

March 5 – May 14

Ages 6-12

\$100 for ten week session

Taught by: Jenn Su (co-founder of Thank You For Coming)

Registration Form Here!

An experimental food and art series using plant parts, live cultures and alchemy to explore processes for bewitching, healing, eating, and play. Spells, sodas, syrups, soups, sourdough, salves, + secrets.

\*2 classes to take place at Thank You For Coming's restaurant storefront  
All other classes held at Center for the Arts Eagle Rock

Yoga Classes

Thursdays, Jan 9- June 5 8:30 – 9:45 AM \$10 per class All levels welcome

Certified Hatha Yoga instructor, Mary Frances Spencer, leads class suitable for all levels. Sequenced to build strength and flexibility, release toxins and stretch tight muscles. Improve your health by stimulating the immune system as you move with your breath. Each session ends with a relaxation, enhanced with tuning forks, singing bowls, and aromatherapy oils for energy and balance.

Beginners Core Connection Classes Mondays  
through April 7, 2014

\$10

Join Mary Ascension Saulnier, certified Pilates instructor specializing in connective tissue bodywork and fasciae anatomy. This is a beginner's class, but variations will be available for more experienced students.

Core Connection Class is a weekly mat class designed to work your entire body with exercises that are seated or lying on the floor. Mats provided or bring your own.

CFAER & FYF

No Age  
with

Peaking Lights & Dunes  
Friday, March 14th  
\$12.50 / 8pm/ All Ages

Tickets

That's right!

They headlined the ERMF a couple years ago!

Now No Age will play a intimate concert here @ CFAER! Get your tickets today before it sells out!

ART AUCTION

APRIL 12, 2014

5pm-8pm

SAVE THE DATE

The 12th Annual Auction is CFAER's benefit fundraiser

\$30 admission give you access to bid on over 100 items.

Open Bar from 5-6pm

Special pre sale tickets \$50 a pair

Details coming soon.

for information contact

Renee@CFAER.org

or call 323.226.1617 ext 224

Educational Update

Kids classes are in full swing!

Thanks for all our new & returning students & teachers.

We are currently providing after school art classes in 14 of our local elementary schools & at the Center.

For more info contact

Laura Marchetti

Director of Education

[laura@cfaer.org](mailto:laura@cfaer.org)

THANK YOU!

This past weekend the Kiwanis Club of Eagle Rock, The Key Club kids, with the leadership of Eric Warren, and members of the Collaborative Eagle Rock Beautiful (CERB) held a day of service garden clean up at the Center.

The gardens are tended by artist, teacher and musician, Adrian Tenny who is responsible for the California drought tolerant planting.

Thank you everyone who has donated their time and efforts. We greatly appreciate it, the garden's never looked better!

If you would like to see more programming like this please support the Center with a donation today.

For more information please visit [www.CFAER.org](http://www.CFAER.org) or email [info@CFAER.org](mailto:info@CFAER.org)

Membership has it's REWARDS! Please join us!

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## 5 **C.E.R.T Training is coming to Arroyo Seco! 3/6**

Wed Feb 26, 2014 10:14 pm (PST) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

C.E.R.T Training is coming to Arroyo Seco! ENROLL NOW! CLASSES START MARCH 6, 2014  
The City of Los Angeles Fire Department, in collaboration with Councilman Gil Cedillo Council District 1 and the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council Public Safety Committee is proud to present this valuable training to the public. The City of Los Angeles Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program was developed to provide basic training in safety and life-saving skills to the general public.

Following a major disaster, police, fire and medical professionals may not be able to fully meet the demand of helping all those in need. People will need to rely on each other to meet the immediate lifesaving and life sustaining needs, particularly if main roads are obstructed or inaccessible.

ENROLL NOW!

CLASSES ARE FREE OF CHARGE.

### TRAINING LOCATION

Ramona Hall  
4580 N. Figueroa

Los Angeles, CA 90031

The training course will be presented as a series of SEVEN\* classes and will include topics such as disaster preparedness, Terrorism awareness, light search and rescue, fire suppression and disaster medical training. The scheduled class dates are:

March 6, 2014 Thursday 6:30pm to 9:00pm  
March 13, 2014 Thursday 6:30pm to 9:00pm  
March 20, 2014 Thursday 6:30pm to 9:00pm  
March 27, 2014 Thursday 6:30pm to 9:00pm  
April 3, 2014 Thursday 6:30pm to 9:00pm

April 10, 2014 Thursday 6:30pm to 9:00pm

April 17, 2014 Thursday 6:30pm to 9:00pm

To enroll and reserve your spot or for questions, contact: Roy Payan repayan@sbcglobal.net or Sylvia Robledo Sylvia.robledo@lacity.org mailto:Sylvia.robledo@lacity.org at 323-550-1538

\*Students must complete all hours of the course to receive a certificate of completion.

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## 6 5 Questions for Highland Park tattoo artist Baba Austin

Wed Feb 26, 2014 10:14 pm (PST) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

[http://www.theeastsiderla.com/2014/02/5-questions-for-highland-park-tattoo-artist-baba-austin/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+TheEastsiderLa+%28The+Eastsider+LA%29](http://www.theeastsiderla.com/2014/02/5-questions-for-highland-park-tattoo-artist-baba-austin/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheEastsiderLa+%28The+Eastsider+LA%29) [http://www.theeastsiderla.com/2014/02/5-questions-for-highland-park-tattoo-artist-baba-austin/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+TheEastsiderLa+%28The+Eastsider+LA%29](http://www.theeastsiderla.com/2014/02/5-questions-for-highland-park-tattoo-artist-baba-austin/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheEastsiderLa+%28The+Eastsider+LA%29)

Photo by Nathan Solis

By Nathan Solis

Baba Austin of Vintage Tattoo Art Parlor in Highland Park laughs when I ask for an interview. He says that previous interviews were train wrecks, and it's not that big of a stretch for a tattoo artist to be a bit surly. He's been practicing his craft since 1989 when he apprenticed for tattoo master Jonathan Shaw in New York. Austin is a consummate professional when it comes to talking craft and even though his analogies involve body parts and pain, he still keeps the conversation moving.

References to Mexican printmaker José Guadalupe Posada and metallurgy flux come up in this interview. Also plenty of four-letter words fly about at the York Boulevard shop, the same shop Austin has called home since 1998. Not a lot has changed inside the shop since opening up and Baba likes it that way. He throws up his fists for a photo, his fingers reading BABA, but with a ring over one finger it reads ABA, and I ask if it's OK, "Sure, it's still me. That's my signature pose anyways," Austin says.

Do you remember your first tattoo?

Yeah, a gang tattoo. I wrote it on a drunk in New York City. Jonathan said, "Go get yourself a wino, give him some ripple, and put a tattoo on him." I didn't know what to do. All that I was interested in was lettering at the time. So I put a big gang block on the guy's back.

Do you ever tell people that their idea for a tattoo isn't good?

No, never. I refuse to do racist stuff. [Points to a customer] I mean, this girl comes here because she trusts us and I'm not going to sit here and be a dick telling her what to do. It's her vision, we just make it come to life. It's not our place to tell them that their idea is stupid. I think all tattoos are cool. Just not for me.

Is it true that if you have alcohol in your system you will bleed more?

Yes, alcohol makes your blood thinner and we won't work with you. It's not that the tattoo will come out like shit, but it's a health risk. You could have Herpa-syphil-AIDS. And if that stuff comes on me, I won't have that. People tell us, "Oh you wear gloves now, you're going soft." We're just protecting ourselves

from you. All the safety precautions are disposable: needles, gloves, everything. There is no way anyone could catch anything now.

What was the scene like when you first started tattooing?

We had to hand make all our own needles. The smell of solder and flux will tear up your nostrils, and you get stains all over your fingers. Flux is basically acid. We had to sterilize our needles and tubes, and the minute we were done we had to break them off and throw them away. Nowadays I'm sponsored, so all of my stuff is provided.

Are there any noticeable trends with tattoos?

They come and go. The tattoos are just as individual as the person who are getting them. Offhand the biggest trends have been the nautical stars and the most recent have been some type of Day of the Dead symbol. Girls in Day of the Dead makeup, or a skull. They have no idea who Posada is. That and girls getting big pieces on their ribs. Girls are like fucking punk rock. These chicks handle their shit.

Nathan Solis is a Highland Park resident who writes about and photographs the L.A. music scene. You can find more of Solis stories, reviews and photos at Smashed Chair.

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## 7 **Frogtown Futuro**

Wed Feb 26, 2014 10:14 pm (PST) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

The Clockshop neighborhood is known as Frogtown or Elysian Valley; what you call it depends on how long you have lived here and to whom you are talking. This narrow strip of land sandwiched between the 5 freeway and the Los Angeles River is undergoing great changes - gentrification to some, urban renewal to others. However you look at it, the community as it has been known is becoming something new. Frogtown Futuro is a series of conversations, film screenings, artist projects and workshops with longtime residents, urban planners, architects, environmentalists and artists on the mutation of neighborhoods within cities and the nature of this transformation here, along the LA River in Frogtown.

All events will be held at Elysian , 2806 Clearwater St., Los Angeles, CA 90039 unless specified otherwise.

This is the LA River

An evening with the Echo Park Film Center

Saturday March 1st @ 7:30pm

Film Program by Rebecca Baron

General Admission: \$10

Students: \$5

Followed by a Q&A with Founder/Executive Director Paolo Davanzo and Operations Director/Youth Film Coordinator Lisa Marr. A portion of the filmmakers will also be present including Anais Hinojosa Téllez, Daniel Garcia, Ismael Garcia, Ellie Parker, Chloe Reyes, Jose Santos, and Penelope Uribe-Abée.

The Echo Park Film Center (EPFC) is a non-profit media arts organization committed to providing equal

and affordable access to film/video education and resources. We work to inform, educate and empower our community toward grassroots activism and artistic participation via four channels: a neighborhood microcinema/events space, free and nominal cost media arts education programs, a comprehensive film equipment and service department, and a touring film festival showcasing local established and student filmmakers.

**THIS IS THE LA RIVER:** Without the Los Angeles River there would be no Los Angeles. A historical and geographical reference point, a place of industry and recreation, the home of herons and toxic trash dumps, flooded and paved over, the subject of poems, art, derision, and protests, the story of the LA River is a long and winding one, open to endless interpretation. "This is the LA River" invited 21 neighborhood youth between the ages of 14 and 19 to explore the River through the medium of 16mm film. The result is a captivating collaborative documentary that examines the complex past, present, and future of the great waterway of Los Angeles.

Filmmakers: Daisy Aquino, Kaymen Barber, Cord Brooks, Niki Cornejo, Sandra Fregozo, Daniel Garcia, Ismael Antonio Garcia, Brenda Gordiano, Nalani Hernandez-Melo, Ava Hess, Spencer Jezewski, Tatiana Luboviski-Acosta, Alice Poteriaiko, Steven Ramos, Jose Santos, Rachel Syms, Mateo Tate-Contreras, Luc Unruh, Vincent Uribe, Emily Van Cise, Woodrow White

**THE SOUND WE SEE: A Los Angeles City Symphony:** In the fall of 2010, youth from across Los Angeles, ages 11–19, banded together to document the life, rhythm, and movement of the city from their unique perspectives, joining their visions to create a complete 24-hour city symphony. The filmmakers divvied up the day into its two-dozen hours, working in pairs to select and shoot locations that best represented each hour of the day (and night) as one minute of film. The result is a spectacular 24-minute trip through the City of Angels as most have never seen it before...

Filmmakers: Maya Abee, Juliette Allen, Bridgette Asturias, Andrew Becerra, Nicola Celada, Albert Celis, Bryan Chavez, Kathy Choi, Danielle Dickerson, Hayley Elliott, Elana Gabbro, Cuauhtemoc Hernandez, Diana Hernandez, Marilyn Hernandez, Paola Hernandez, Anais Hinojosa, Ish Lipman, Danny Louangxay, Felix Martinez, James Noel, Alyssa Osorio, Emilie Palamides, Ellie Parker, Chloe Reyes, Sam Ribakoff, Isabella Mae Robbins, Ashley Ruiz, Naima Sabur, Angelo Sanchez, John Stockburger, Aura Oropeza Tellez, Penelope Uribe-Abee, Charles Valencia, Walter Vargas, Victoria Velasco, Bobby Villagomez, Kathryn Wilkins

First Time Home Buying Workshop  
w/ East LA Community Corporation  
Tuesday March 4th @ 7:00 - 8:00pm  
Dorris Place Elementary School Auditorium  
2225 Dorris Pl  
Los Angeles, CA 90031

A FREE workshop open to the public led by the East LA Community Corporation and organized in collaboration with longtime Elysian Valley residents Helen Leung of LA-Más and David De La Torre of the Elysian Valley Neighborhood Watch providing information for tenants and renters of all types. ELACC's vision is simple: to help the members of a 95% Latino community create an environment that

supports a productive, healthy, and fulfilling life. The Mission of ELACC is to advocate for economic and social justice in Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles by building grassroots leadership, developing affordable housing and neighborhood assets, and providing access to economic development opportunities for low and moderate income families.

Spanish interpretation will be available.

Click here to get the flyer.

<http://clockshop.org/images/HomeownersWorkshopMarch4.pdf> <http://clockshop.org/images/HomeownersWorkshopMarch4.pdf>

Future Frogtown - what's in store for our neighborhood in the near-future

A Conversation with Rick Cortez and Helen Leung

Thursday March 6th @ 7:30pm

\$5 suggested donation

Helen and Rick, both members of the Frogtown community, will discuss their vision for the future of the neighborhood.

Rick Cortez is founder and principal at RAC Design Build located in Elysian Valley. RACDB is a full range Architectural design studio and custom fabrication shop that specializes in both custom residential and commercial architectural design, as well as construction, construction management, and extensive custom carpentry and metal fabrication abilities. Rick was born in Los Angeles and received his B-Arch from the Southern California Institute of Architecture.

Helen Leung is a proud Frogtown native committed to ensuring a better neighborhood for her neighbors. As Director of Social Impact at LA-Más, Helen is working to redefine the intersection of community development and social equity, with a focus in gentrifying neighborhoods. Helen specializes in creating and managing place-based efforts, building cross-sector partnerships, and ensuring that successful pilot efforts result in systemic change. A native Angelino and urban planner, Helen has extensive community-based experience working for former Los Angeles Council President Eric Garcetti. Recently, Helen managed transit-oriented development and asset build portfolios at Living Cities, a national funders collaborative. Helen holds a Masters in Public Policy and Urban Planning from the Kennedy School of Government.

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## 8 [Volunteer at the LA River this Saturday.](#)

Wed Feb 26, 2014 10:30 pm (PST) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

[http://www.laworks.com/HOC\\_\\_Volunteer\\_Opportunity\\_Details\\_Page?id=a0CA000000WqTeaMAF](http://www.laworks.com/HOC__Volunteer_Opportunity_Details_Page?id=a0CA000000WqTeaMAF)

Join the LA River Revitalization Corp for a day of service along the LA River Greenway! Volunteers from JP Morgan Chase, USC, UCLA and the community will join forces for a day of greening and

beautification along the LA River Greenway in the community of Elysian Valley.

Saturday, March 1st, 2014, 7:30 AM  
LA River High School

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## 9 **Trompers of Eagle Rock car club members keep on cruising**

Wed Feb 26, 2014 10:34 pm (PST) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

The hot-rod enthusiasts attending Trompers of Eagle Rock meetings Wednesday mornings reminisce about their racing days and swap hard-to-find spare parts for their prized possessions.

A pair of 1930s Ford roadsters are among the antique vehicles parked at a Coco's restaurant in Highland Park during a Trompers of Eagle Rock meeting this month.

By Nita Lelyveld

February 23, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

The back room at Coco's in Highland Park gets crowded Wednesday mornings.

So does the parking lot, which can get embarrassing too.

Slip your Accord or Corolla into a spot and fight the urge to back out: It's as if you showed up at New York Fashion Week in a rumpled T-shirt and sweat pants.

Your generic sedan may be resigned to its dents and its dings. That's not the case with the lot's more distinguished occupants, so pristine they could be fresh off the assembly line.

Coupes, pickups and sedans from the 1920s and '30s. Roadsters shining as if dipped in nail polish. Hot rods so clean their engines gleam.

But don't get the wrong idea.

Although members of Trompers of Eagle Rock car club baby their vintage cars, they also drive them — and have been known to race them. Their prized possessions, they say, are no "trailer queens" hauled from show to show just to be shown off.

The Trompers logo is a thick boot on a throttle. To tromp the throttle is to put the pedal to the metal.

When the club was founded in 1945, it was all about speed. Young guys were buying old Fords and Chevys and souping up their engines. Teenagers raced on the streets, and on the tracks and on dry desert lake beds speed records got smashed week after week.

The first Trompers set their sights on the time trials held at El Mirage in the Mojave Desert. They were "a bunch of hot rodders, just a few guys in a driveway up the other end of Eagle Rock," said Don Zabel of Tujunga, an original member who at 86 still comes to meetings.

Together they raced, tinkered and took off on jaunts along the rough two-lane roads to Palm Springs. Sometimes they all wore peacoats and black derby hats.

It was fun for a bunch of years, until life intervened and the club faded away.

Then in 2003, a modern-day Eagle Rock car nut was flipping through an old hot-rod book and came across a reference to the Trompers. He asked around. Original members were found. They gave their blessing to the club's revival.

Those who were Trompers from the beginning are, of course, older now. And the newer members are no spring chickens either — though there are plenty of advantages to that.

Quite a few are retirees. They have time on their hands and money in their pockets to indulge their whims. Most own more than one old car — which keeps the Wednesday morning show-and-tell interesting.

Rich Carter, 66, a retired high school principal from Michigan, drives west with his wife each winter so they can be near their daughter. He's loved cars since he was a boy, and has a hot-rodded 1939 Ford he bought when he was 14. Finding the Trompers and experiencing Southern California car culture firsthand, he says, was the fulfillment of a lifelong fantasy — as was refurbishing a second classic car, a forest-green 1939 Ford Deluxe convertible with a seductively curvaceous front end.

"I'm one of those guys from the Midwest who read hot-rod books and just dreamed. And when I retired, the dream became a reality," he says. "Wednesday mornings, you get up out of bed. You put your Trompers shirt on, your Trompers hat and go have breakfast and have a great time."

The club president — 65-year-old Al Reyes of Duarte — often drives his 1933 Divco Helms Bakery truck to meetings, although he has three other old vehicles, including a 1936 Ford two-door slant-back with a tricked-out engine.

Vasken Hagopian, 68, who says he's owned 100 cars over the years, converted a terrace in his Silver Lake backyard into a covered parking spot for six. Two more are at his mom's house in Hollywood. One's living with a friend of his in Lancaster.

Ask Kevin Preciado how many he has and, before he says 30, he grins and asks: "Why? You got a vacant spot?"

It's loud inside Coco's, with all the reminiscing about drag racing and cars that got away and great times "going to the salt" for Bonneville Speed Week. Forks clank on plates of pancakes, bacon and eggs.

Reyes blows his two-tone Helms whistle to start the meeting. He welcomes "the girls" — a booth full of wives — and asks everyone to support the group by buying tickets for the weekly 50-50 raffle (in which they could win one of his wife Sandy's pineapple upside-down cakes).

Model A coupes, motorcycle races, upcoming shows, Rex Jaramillo's wife's knee surgery — members take turns talking. They swap stories of their early days just as, later on in the parking lot, they'll swap hard-to-find spare parts.

Mike Rickman, 70, talks about his late father, a legendary photographer for Hot Rod magazine. For years, Rickman went with him to all sorts of car races and gatherings. When Eric Rickman died in 2009, Mike Rickman says, he felt so lonely.

"I was looking for camaraderie and I found you guys. And it's been heaven ever since. No glum days, no bad days. It's just a breakfast party every Wednesday."

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